The Southern PATRIOT

Volume 6 | New Orleans, Louisiana, December, 1948 | No. 10

Southerners Adopt Declaration of Civil Rights; Call For End of Discrimination and Segregation

Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 20.—A bold and forceful challenge to fellow citizens to bring American ideals and deeds into closer harmony by ending discrimination and segregation based on race, religion and nationality was a highlight of the Declaration Of Civil Rights adopted here today by a group of 50 persons from 12 Southern States.

The Declaration had previously been endorsed by 200 persons from all of the Southern States.

The Declaration was formally adopted at Monticello, mountain-top home of Thomas Jefferson. The group met in morning and afternoon sessions at Madison Hall, YMCA Building at the University of Virginia to discuss the statement and to make minor textual changes in the preliminary draft.

"We still believe," the 1000-word Declaration read, "that all men are created equal and are endowed as men with certain rights . . ."

"We take these rights to include equality before the law, and freedom from any discrimination bolstered by law; a right to vote; freedom of expression; an unrestricted access to all institutions supported by taxes for the public welfare, schools and hospitals not excepted; equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunity to receive training and to gain employment; and the right to unsegregated transportation, housing and assembly."

At the Charlottesville Declaratory Conference On Civil Rights, from left to right: Aubrey Williams, James A. Dombrowski, The Rev. John H. Fischbach, Luther P. Jackson, Mrs. A. W. Simkins, The Rev. Oscar B. Wooldridge, Jr.

Aubrey Williams, president of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, who presided over the conference sessions, stated that in a very real sense a new day was dawning in the South. He stated that there must be an end to saying that evils would right themselves in time, and called for a stand against segregation, "fearlessly, without shading or compromise."

"We are sustained by the truth and the right," said Mr. Williams, "All decent men eventually will welcome us."

Thomas W. Johnson, attorney from Macon, Ga., served as chairman of the session during which the statement was discussed and finally approved. The Declaration in its preliminary form was presented to the conference by Dr. James A. Dombrowski, of New Orleans, Director of the SCEF.

After returning from the pilgrimage to Monticello, under the leadership of Dr. Luther P. Jackson, of Virginia State College, the group discussed plans for giving practical effect to the program outlined in the statement.

The Rev. John H. Fischbach, minister of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, offered the invocation, and The Rev. Oscar B. Wooldridge, Jr.,

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A DECLARATIO

We make the following declaration as Americans deeply committed to our form of government and our way of life.

* * *

It is useful at any time to re-examine day-to-day practices in the light of professed beliefs. Such an examination seems especially appropriate today, because: many fellow citizens, especially in our Southern States, are unashamedly advocating ideas of racism and white supremacy, contrary to American democracy; truth and justice are not bounded or divided by parallels of latitude—this is one country and one people, governed under one constitution; a rapidly changing world requires a new analysis of the meaning of equality and freedom adequate for new conditions; finally, the United States today is bidding for world leadership. Practice at home of what we advocate abroad, is the only road to effective leadership.

With these ideas in mind, we, the undersigned citizens of the Southern States and of the United States, have taken a fresh look at our American heritage of freedom and equality for all, and how it works out in actual practice. We present here our findings and conclusions in all sincerity, hopeful that our efforts may stimulate others to undertake a similar discipline.

* * *

We STILL believe all men are created equal, and are endowed as men with certain rights which each must respect and guard to the other.

We take these rights to include equality before the law, and freedom from any discrimination bolstered by law; a right to vote; freedom of expression; an unrestricted access to all institutions supported by taxes for the public welfare, schools and hospitals not excepted; equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunity to receive training and to gain employment; and the right of unsegregated transportation, housing and assembly.

For many of our citizens enjoyment of these rights is denied or abridged by laws and conventions contrary to justice, and to the aims and purposes of this republic. We recognize the habitual and cultivated prejudices upon which such discriminations are sustained; we recognize the need of protections in law, and in the enforcement of law, to these rights, in our day.

* * *

While we are gratified at what progress has been made, past achievements should serve as an incentive to greater progress and not as an excuse for our failure to meet present obligations.

* * *

This nation was founded with the declaration

Conference delegates at Monticello, ... ho... the Declaration Of Civil Right... ly ad...

OF CIVIL RIGHTS

that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights.

We are proud that these words were given to the world by a Southerner, Thomas Jefferson.

Closely associated with the idea of equality and the political democracy built upon it is another concept basic to American culture, the idea of the brotherhood of all mankind. It was given to us many centuries ago in the Hebrew-Christian tradition, — "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

* * *

We understand the historic conditions that gave rise to our present plight. However, those conditions long ago ceased to exist, although their effects endure.

Discrimination inevitably means lower living standards for those who discriminate as well as for those who are victims of discrimination. Although the South is one of the richest regions in the United States in natural resources, the average citizen in a Southern State has an income forty per cent lower than that of a citizen in a non-Southern state.

* * *

Today we are bound by economic, political, and ethical demands to abolish segregation and discrimination against racial, religious, and national groups.

To bring American ideals and deeds into closer harmony, we offer the following proposals:

I. FOR VOLUNTARY INDIVIDUAL ACTION: To speak out against discrimination when it is confronted in a particular case; to guard against prejudice in thought, word, and deed; to cultivate the habit of thinking of all persons as individuals, rather than as members of a group.

II. FOR VOLUNTARY GROUP ACTION: (By educational, religious, fraternal, labor, business, professional, civic, and other groups.) To inform and educate their members as to present inequities and injustices, and to secure their consent and approval of changes in constitutions, by-laws and practices needed to establish these rights.

III. FOR LEGISLATION: (a) Repeal of existing laws in violation of these principles, notably all laws that force public distinctions based on color, religion, or national origin.

(b). Passage of new legislation at federal, State, and local levels to serve as a shield to the civil rights of the citizens, including the rights outlined above.

Adopted at Monticello, Virginia

November 20, 1948

(Signed by 200 residents of all the Southern States.)

home of Thomas Jefferson, where ly adopted, November 20, 1948.

Civil Rights

(Continued from page 1)

General Secretary of the University of Virginia YMCA, welcomed the delegates, Mrs. A. W. Simkins, of Columbia, S. C., served as secretary for the conference.

Student delegations from as far away as Oklahoma and Arkansas took an active part in the conference.

In addition to those named above, delegates included: Bertha E. Davis, Retired Missionary, Orlando, Fla.; J. Lewis Henderson, Merchant, Bay St. Louis, Miss.; Marvin Caplan, Editor, **Southern Jewish Outlook**, Richmond, Va; James W. Ray, Baptist Student Union Sec'y., Raleigh, N. C.; Frank W. Finger, Asso. Prof. of Psychology, Univ. of Va.; Rev. B. F. Bunn, First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va.; Mrs. A. H. Straus, Exec. Sec'y., Richmond Public Forum, Richmond, Va.; Rev. Malcolm R. Sutherland, Jr., Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, Charlottesville, Va.; John L. Essary, Editor, **East Tennessee Labor News**, (A.F.L.), Knoxville, Ten.; James McBride Dabbs, Farmer, Mayesville, S. C. Virginia Durr, Alexandria, Va.; Dee Potts, Danforth Graduate Fellow, Univ. of Arkansas; L. F. Palmer, Prof., Hampton Institute, Va.; Mrs. Lenora P. Williams, Prof., Hampton Institute, Va.; Jack P. Marash, Social Worker, Richmond, Va.; W. H. Moses, Jr., Hampton Institute, Va.; Naomie Caplan, Psychologist, Richmond, Va.; Rev. Charles M. Jones, Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, N. C.; John W. Hunt, Jr., President, Westminister Foundation, Univ. of Okla.; John L .Palmer, Univ. of Va.

T. J. Sellers, Life Insurance Counsellor, Charlottesville, Va.; Amos C. Clark, Sec'y., Richmond Civic Council, Richmond, Va.; Clark Foreman, Washington, D. C.; Boyce H. Creamer, Duke Univ., N. C.; S. S. Teel, Farmer, Charlottesville, Va.; Gregory W. Brockman, Va. State College, Petersburg; Mr. and Mrs. L. Chauvenet, Charlottesville; Mary L. Evans, Va. State College; Carolyn Prapps, Univ. of Okla.

W. Lou Howard, Pres., Inter-Religious Council, Univ. of Okla., Norman; Robert L. Mason, Univ. of Va.; Allan Wimbish, Univ. of Va.; S. L. Gandy, Director, Religious Activities, Va. State College; Harietta Foreman, Va. State College; Rev. J. C. Herrin, First Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Garnett McCoy, Univ. of Va.

Conference group in session at Madison Hall, YMCA Building at the University of Virginia.

How You Can Use This Declaration

1. **Sign it yourself.**
2. **Get your friends to sign it.**
3. **Present it to your church group, club, forum, union, civic group, and other organizations for endorsement.**
4. **Write letters to editors calling attention to the Declaration.**
5. **Display it on bulletin boards.**

The Southern PATRIOT

VOL. 6 DECEMBER, 1948 No. 10

THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT published monthly ten times a year by The Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 808 Perdido Street, New Orleans 12, Louisiana. Twenty-five cents a copy, $2.00 a year. Entered as second-class mail matter October 5, 1946, at the Postoffice, New Orleans, Louisiana under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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Copies of Declaration of Civil Rights Available Without Cost

The Monticello Declaration of Civil Rights is being printed in an attractive folder containing a partial list of the original endorsements. We will be glad to send you direct without cost as many copies as you can use to advantage.

The Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.
808 Perdido Street, New Orleans 12, La.

☐ Please add my endorsement to the Declaration of Civil Rights.

☐ Please send me without charge ..... copies of the Declaration.

☐ I enclose $ ..... as my contribution to help in the distribution of the Declaration. (Contributions of $2.00 or more will include a year's subscription to The Southern Patriot.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TITLE _____
(For identification only)